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CONFIDENTIALDecember 18th, 1959COCOM Document No. 3819 BCOORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONCNA FRENCH PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE EXPORT OF MICRODOSIMETERS TO POLANDDecember 10th and 17th, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM Document No. 3784.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the French memorandum concerning a possible export of microdosimeters to Poland. He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.
2. The FRENCH Delegate explained that his authorities wished to settle the question of principle before allowing the manufacturers to pursue their negotiations with the interested authorities in Poland. He had had a bilateral exchange of views with the experts of various Delegations as to whether these dosimeters, which were principally used in medical purposes but in certain rare cases could be used for other purposes, fell under the specific exclusion for dosimeters "designed specifically for use in medical radiation equipment" contained in Item 20 of the Atomic Energy List. A descriptive brochure was available for Delegations who were interested in further technical details.
3. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that his authorities considered that the dosimeters described in the French memorandum were covered by Item 20 of the Atomic Energy List but they would have no objection to the export of reasonable quantities of such dosimeters to Poland provided that they would be used for medical purposes. He understood that the French Delegation would submit an exceptions request in the normal way when a firm order had been received from Poland.
4. The FRENCH Delegate confirmed that an exceptions request would be submitted if a definite order materialised. He informed the Committee that the preliminary discussions had envisaged the export of not more than 40 dosimeters.
5. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that his authorities considered that the dosimeters in question were covered by Atomic Energy List Item 20. Before giving their final views on the possibility of allowing their export to Poland, he would be grateful for further technical details concerning the number of ionisation chambers and the specifications of these chambers, also further information as to the end-use of the dosimeters in terms of the consideration normally given to cases under the special Polish policy.

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6. The FRENCH Delegate replied that some of the ionisation chambers which could be supplied with this equipment had a value of 5 r or less; these were used principally for medical purposes and were not under embargo. Other ionisation chambers, which were also used principally for medical purposes, had a value of up to 200 r and were thus caught by the current definition of Atomic Energy List Item 20; it was to settle this particular problem that the French Delegation had raised the question in the Committee. Referring then to the specifications of the ionisation chambers, the Delegate said that they had a charged potential of either 200 or 400 volts, the former being the more common. Measurements were taken when there was a loss in tension of 5 volts. Under certain temperature and pressure conditions an accuracy of  $\pm 1\%$  could be obtained. He stressed the fact that they could not measure flash exposures because of their high time constant. These dosimeters were used for purposes where measurements of a very high accuracy were required, normally for medical work, but also for biological and general laboratory uses. For example, ionisation chambers with values of more than 5 r, for example 10 r or even 100 r, were used for the exclusively medical purpose of being lodged in a human cavity in order to measure the growth of a tumour. They could measure up to 3 M.e.V.. Another important consideration was they they could measure only gamma rays and could not be used near a large particle accelerator, such as a cosmotron. The price of the equipment ranged from Fr. 300,000 for a microdosimeter to Fr. 600,000 for more complicated equipment with a choice of ionisation chambers. The maximum number involved in the contemplated shipment would be 40, but it might be as few as 10.

7. The UNITED STATES Delegate observed that paragraph 3 of the French memorandum stated that a certain number of dosimeters would be bought for medical centres. He asked what proportion would go to medical centres and also what was the destination of the remainder.

8. The FRENCH Delegate replied that approximately 80% of the consignment would go to medical centres and the remaining 20% for biological and laboratory work.

9. The ITALIAN Delegate said that his authorities would have no objection to the shipment of the dosimeters described in the French memorandum. They would examine a specific exceptions request in the same spirit.

10. The NETHERLANDS Delegate informed the Committee that his authorities considered that these dosimeters were covered by Atomic Energy List Item 20. They would have no objection to their export provided they were used for medical or biological purposes.

11. The JAPANESE Delegate stated that in his authorities' opinion the dosimeters in question were covered by Atomic Energy List Item 20. He had no instructions as to the possibility of their being exported to Poland but he undertook to forward to his authorities the new data supplied by the French Delegation.

12. The BELGIAN and DANISH Delegates said that their authorities had no objection to the export of the dosimeters described in the French memorandum.

13. The GERMAN Delegate said that he had no instructions as to whether or not his authorities considered these dosimeters caught by Item 20 of the Atomic Energy List. Any concrete exceptions request submitted by the French Delegation in this connexion would be considered sympathetically.

14. The FRENCH Delegate in conclusion appealed to the Japanese and United States Delegates to obtain the final views of their authorities as quickly as possible so that the French firm in question could continue its negotiations with the Polish authorities.

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15. On December 17th the GERMAN Delegate informed the Committee that his authorities were of the opinion that the dosimeters in question were caught by Item 20 of the Atomic Energy List.

16. The JAPANESE Delegate said that his authorities would have no objection to the export of these dosimeters to Poland.

17. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that his authorities had no objection in principle to the initiation of negotiations as described by the French Delegate (paragraph 2 above). He also wished to point out that an important element in their consideration of an exceptions request, if and when it were submitted to the Committee, would be the number of ionization chambers to be supplied.

18. The FRENCH Delegate expressed his thanks to the Japanese and United States Delegates for the views they had given. His authorities would now allow negotiations to proceed and, when these were completed, would submit an exceptions request to the Committee. They hoped that this case would be considered with sympathy.

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